PURSUANT [illegible] for draining the North Level of the Fens, I have [illegible] Nene from Peterborough, thro' Wiſbeach, to the Sea; and have examined the Situation, and Nature of the Sand, from the River's End, to a Place called the Eye, and am of Opinion that it will not be practicable to make, and preſerve a good Channel thro' them, that will in any Degree anſwer the Purpoſe of Drainage, or Improvement of the Navigation, to Wiſbeach, by reaſon of their continual ſhifting, and altering the Courſe of the Channel, which is out of the Power of Art to prevent.

The moſt likely Way to get a good Outfall to Sea, will be by opening a new Cut, thro' the Marſhes, and Sands, nearly in a direct Line, from the River's End, to about four or five hundred Yards above the Lower Beacon at the Eye; as the Channel there is a great Depth, and hath not been known to have altered its Situation in the Memory of Man, and very probably will not alter, as the Bottom is a very ſtrong Body of Clay: beſides, at this Place, there is a bold Shore, which is likewiſe Clay, or a ſtrong Silt; for which Reaſon I think it will be attended with no extraordinary Difficulty to open a Cut thro' the Marſhes and Sands, to communicate with the Sea at this Place.

I have propoſed making the Bottom of the New Cut nearly two Feet below the Sea Apron of Gunthorpe Sluice; and in that Caſe there will be a Fall, from the Mouth of the Cut near the End of the Marſhes, to Low-Water at the Eye, of at leaſt five Feet; which certainly is a Fall ſufficient to carry off the Silt, and keep the Mouth of the Cut open.

It may be objected, that the great Quantity of Earth, and Sand, that will be brought down by the Water in deepening the Bed of the River, by the Hedgehog, or Porcupine, (which it will be neceſſary to do) may choak up the Eye; but that can never be the Caſe, by reaſon of its hard, and ſmooth Bottom; and the ſtrong Current of the Tide, that paſſes thro' it in its Way to the Sea.

The above Works being done, the Low-lands that now drain by different Sluices into the Wiſbeach River, will have a Fall into the New Cut, at the End of Shire Drain, ſufficient to drain them without the Aſſiſtance of Engines.

At a Spring Tide, there will be upwards of fourteen Feet of Water at the River's End; and at Wiſbeach Town, twelve Feet.

The Freſh-water Floods will have a quick Paſſage to Sea, and will not riſe ſo high againſt the Banks, by four or five Feet.

In the following Eſtimate, I have ſuppoſed the New Cut to be made an hundred Feet wide at Top, and at a mean, about twelve Feet within Ground, in order to get a ſufficient Quantity of Earth to make a Bank upon each Side, high and ſtrong enough to reſiſt the Tides; tho' when the Ground comes to be actually marked out, if it be found that a leſs Dimenſion will do, then Part of the Expence may be ſaved.

E S T I M A T E.

To making a New Cut thro' the incloſed, and Salt-marſhes, about eight Miles in Length, and making Banks of each Side, at leaſt two Feet above the preſent Sea Banks -	£. 30,000	0	0
To imbanking a Reſervoir, for keeping open the Mouth of the Cut, turning an Engine for draining the Works, &c. - - - - - - - - - - - - -	450	0	0
To Engines, and lifting the Water to drain the Works whilſt executing - - - -	2000	0	0
To ſecuring the Mouth of the Cut next the Sea - - - - - - - - -	6000	0	0
To making a Dam, and Sluice, at the River's End, to carry off the Land Flood-water, whilſt the Works below are executing - - - - - - - - - - - -	4000	0	0
To the Purchaſe of 216 Acres of Land thro' the incloſed Marſhes, ſuppoſe at 30£. *per* Acre -	6480	0	0
To extra Expence in conveying the Land-waters of the Country from their Sluices to the Sea, whilſt the Works are in complete - - - - - - - - - - - - -	700	0	0
To opening the River, and forming a Bank on the South Side, to confine the Summer Floods, and Tides in the River, from Standground Sluice to Guyhirn - - - - -	5000	0	0
To deepening the River from Guyhirn, to the River's End - - - - - - -	1200	0	0
To making a Swivel Bridge over the Cut, at the Turnpike Road, at Sutton Waſh-way -	300	0	0
To Contingencies, (ſuppoſe) - - - - - - - - - - - - -	5000	0	0
	£. 61,130	0	0

WISBEACH, Auguſt 22, 1770.

James Brindley.